

# THE PUZZLER

## Who's Who in Puzzledom

Thomas H. Middleton



Once a month in *Saturday Review* and every other Sunday in the *New York Times*, puzzlers with safecrackers' patience unlock a double-crostic by Thomas H. Middleton. Finding single letters, then glimpses of words, the solver at last discovers a hidden quotation magically revealed.

Now in his mid-50s, Thomas Middleton is a second-generation puzzler ("My father got me into cryptograms") who first solved crosswords as a teenager. Double-crostics came later, when he realized that "somebody must be able to do them or the paper wouldn't print them."

Of his acting during the 1950s, Middleton recalls modestly, "I was usually somebody's fiance." He appeared in many productions aired live during TV's "Golden Age": *Studio One*, *Kraft Theatre* and *Robert Montgomery Presents*. Middleton was working as the dialogue coach for the Robert Wise film *The Sand Pebbles* when he was asked to do the *Saturday Review* puzzles in 1967.

More than a thousand puzzles later (he also contributes 90 a year to books), Middleton lives in Los Angeles, where his wife is a social worker. A full-time puzzlemaker, he unwinds with tennis, squash, and the *Manchester Guardian's* crossword, admitting, "The latest one has me completely stumped."

The sources for his quotations range from Eudora Welty's *The Corner Store* to Derek Shearer's *Economic Democracy* to

Eugene Kinkead's *The Squirrel Book*. "One of the bane of my existence is reading," Middleton says, chuckling. "I probably start more books than anyone else in the United States—and finish fewer. I'll read a book until I've got a quota-

tion, and don't have time to finish a book unless it really grips me."

A good quotation "has to present a vivid picture or interesting thought," explains Middleton, who majored in philosophy at Princeton. "Of course, if it has

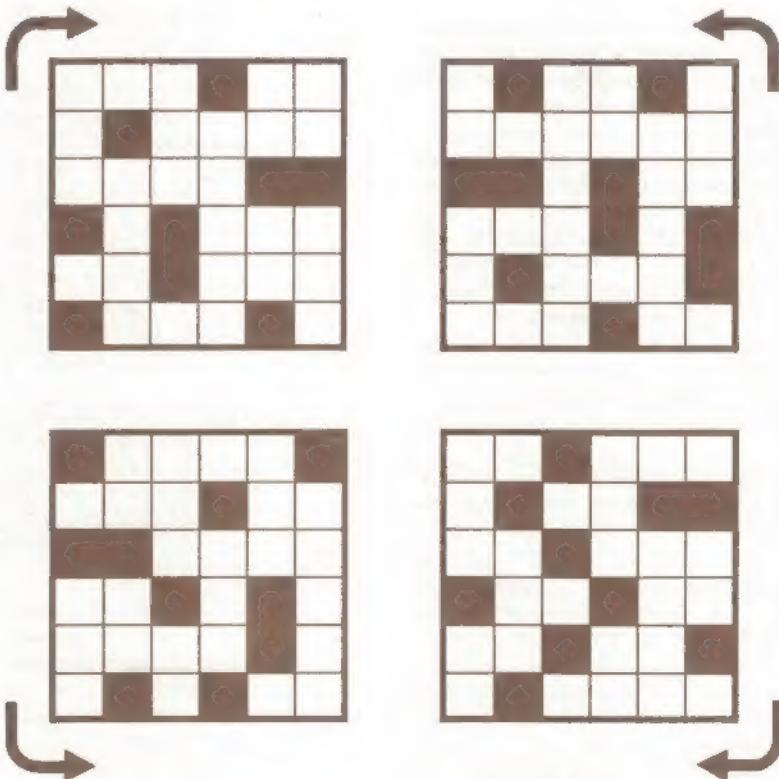
*continued on page 2*

## 1 Crystal Clear

PIERRE BERLOQUIN

No pencil or paper on this one. Imagine that each of the four 6x6 diagrams below is printed on a sheet of transparent glass. If each diagram is rotated 90° in the direction shown, and then all four are stacked (in any order) on top of one another, how many of the 36 small squares would *not* be blacked out?

Answer, page 10





## Offerings to the Sphinx

### Secrets of Writing Puzzles in Verse

PHILIP M. COHEN

A good verse puzzle can be one of the finest forms of wordplay, appealing to much the same intellect that enjoys the twists and humor of cryptic crosswords. Here is an example:

#### Charade

If you are collecting antique Chinese art,  
It's xxxx to know this report from the  
start:

Some yyyy defrauders, they say, now  
have made  
Good fakes of Xxx xxyyyyy vases and  
jade.

*Martha Fee, Shorewood, WI*

The verse and answer ("Han dynasty," which combines "handy" and "nasty") have a certain elegance that make this puzzle a joy to read and solve.

Naturally, a well-written verse enhances the solving pleasure. At the simplest level a good puzzle verse must have perfect rhyme and meter. Unless the puzzle is very simple, the solver is likely to read it many times on the way to a solution, and any flaws will be magnified. Indeed, flaws may hinder the solution.

If you've never written verse, we recommend the introductory article in *The Complete Rhyming Dictionary* by Clement Wood. But meanwhile, here are a few tips:

Two words rhyme if the last accented vowel and all following sounds (but *not* the immediately preceding consonants) are identical. Thus, "vacation" rhymes with "oration," but not "Eurasian," "location," or "location." Words cannot rhyme if they are stressed on different syllables, like "beside" and "seaside." When in doubt, check a dictionary. This will also help you avoid dialectic rhymes. If "asked yet" and "gas jet" rhyme in your speech (they do in mine if I talk fast), or "marry" and "ferry" rhyme to

you, the dictionary will warn you that they don't for most Americans.

Smooth meter requires a regular alternation of stressed and unstressed syllables throughout the verse, like dadUM dadADUM dadADUM dadADUM. The best way to check your meter is to read the verse aloud in a normal conversational manner, without forcing the rhythm. In general, accented syllables of multisyllabic words should be stressed, and short prepositions or syllables with reduced vowels (schwas) should not. Others can go either way.

For example, the "Han dynasty" charade is naturally read:

If you are COLLECTING ANTIQUE Chinese  
ART,  
It's HANDY to KNOW this REPORT from  
the START . . .

Simon and Garfunkel may have gotten away with "a vision softly in cree-ping . . . while I wa-as slee-ping," but you won't.

Flawless rhyme and meter, of course, do not alone make a good puzzle. The verse should offer a small reward to the solver: a tiny story, a wry observation, a pun. Equally important, the puzzle should be fair. If the solver doesn't get enough help from the context to find the missing words, it isn't a puzzle—it's a guessogram.

When you're writing your first verse puzzle, don't worry about being too obvious; it always looks easy when you know the answer. The more uncommon the missing word, the sharper the clues to it should be. For example, a verse indicating only that a missing five-letter word is some sort of living being might be okay if it's "horse," but probably not if it's "okapi"—though a hard clue to one hidden word may be justified if the clues to another are easy. When a blatant clue is needed, one can use synonyms ("He's pleased, he's contented, he's xxxx") or clichés ("lock, stock, and xxxxxx"), or for a real giveaway, put the word at the end of a line and rhyme it with an unhidden word.

Be precise and accurate, so that when the solver finally gets the answer, he has no doubt that it is correct (or so that when he sees the answer the next month, he thinks, "I should have gotten that!"). Mind you, red herrings are allowed—even desirable. For example:

#### Transposal

My canine's last moments distressed me  
a lot;  
The xxxxxxxx sure xxxxxxxx in giving the  
shot.

*James Rambo, Palo Alto, CA*

One naturally pictures a veterinarian putting a dog to sleep, but may eventually hit upon the solution "dentist/stinted." The realization that the canine is a tooth, not a dog, satisfies like the punchline of a good joke. Such gems are the height of verse puzzling.

*Philip M. Cohen, winner of the Fourth Annual American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, has been composing and solving verse puzzles for ten years.*

*The editors welcome contributions to "The Sphinx Page." For directions and more puzzles, turn to page 8.*

#### Who's Who, cont'd

an outrageous bit of humor, I love it." He recently teased puzzlers with the following from Mario Pei's *The Story of Language*: "An account of the way an exasperated Cockney tried to spell the name of the town of Ealing for . . . the telephone operator runs . . . 'E for 'eaven, A for wot 'orses eat, L for where you're going, I for me, N for wot lays eggs, and G for gawd's sake keep your ears open!"

When he has selected a quotation, Middleton moves over to a table in his cluttered office and maneuvers Scrabble tiles "so worn that I have to keep penning in the letters." He takes the 170 to 260 letters of the quotation and scrambles them to form the words below the diagram, with the author and book title forming in sequence the first letter of each of the answers.

During the day it takes him to construct a puzzle, Middleton works to "give the solver a pretty good toehold in the puzzle with enough clues, say five or six, that he can answer pretty easily—but not so many that he thinks any idiot can do the puzzle." Though Middleton favors "good dictionary definitions," he occasionally unleashes his imagination, as in the clue and answer combination of "Potter's field" for GAMESMANSHP, referring to Stephen Potter's popular book of humor.

Since 1972 Middleton has also written a *Saturday Review* column on language, in which he has grappled with correct usage of the word "hopefully," sparred with the jargon of sports announcers, and promoted the coining of "logophile" to describe a lover of words. Does he have a word to describe someone who constructs double-crostics for a living? Middleton paused and chuckled, "Why, yes. A double-croptician."

—ROBERT D. SPURRIER

*Note: Readers will find a new Thomas Middleton double-crostic on page 7 of this issue.*

## Acronymbles

### Competition

**Grand Prize:** *The Master Crossword Puzzle Dictionary, Roget's Thesaurus in Dictionary Form, and the Book of Tests*, from Doubleday

**5 Runner-up prizes:** "Word Rummy" card game from Gabriel

For years you've been hearing people ask, "What's in a name?" Now at last the answer can be revealed.

The letters in a name are actually the initials of a phrase describing the person whose name it is. For instance, the letters in "Reagan" obviously stand for REPUBLICAN EVASIVELY ANSWERS, "GO ASK NANCY."

This principle applies not only to real people but to fictional ones also, such as "Miss Muffet": MAIDEN IMBIBES, SEES SPIDER, MURMURS "UGH!", FLEES. (FINDS ENTOMOLOGY TIRESOME.)

Devise your own astute observation on the significance of a famous name, and send it to "Acronymbles," *The Four-Star Puzzler*, 515 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022. Use a postcard or back of an envelope, please (no letters). Entries will be judged on creativity and cleverness, and the decision of the judges is capricious and final. Entries must be received by May 15, 1981. All entries become the property of *The Four-Star Puzzler*. Winners will appear in the August issue.

Incidentally, before you sign your entry "Anonymous," stop and reflect: AS NAMELESSNESS OBSCURES NOTEWORTHINESS, YOU MUST OBVIOUSLY USE "SMITH." —LINDA BOSSON

## "Zounds!"

### Results from February

No wonder Xavier yelled "Zounds!" You would too if you read the countless terrifying reports of medical and musical mishaps (featuring X-rays and xylophones) which were sent in for the February competition. (The challenge was to write a story in which the first word began with Z, the second with Y, etc., through the alphabet backwards.)

First-prize winner was Arlene McElhinney, who related that ZACHARY YOUNG'S X-RAYS WERE VERY UNUSUAL. THEY SHOWED REALLY QUEER PICTURES OF NEEDLES, MATCHES, LOCKS, KEYS, JACKKNIVES, IN HIS GUT. FINALLY, EVERY DIAGNOSIS CONFIRMED BELLY ACHE.

As if Zachary's own X-rays weren't bad enough, Joan Scribner (one of the ten runners-up) informs us that ZACHARY'S YAK'S X-RAY WAS VALID UN-

TIL THE SURGEON RAISED QUESTIONS. PERHAPS, ONE NORMAL MARSUPIAL LAUGHED, KEROSENE JAMMED IN HIS GLANDS FROM EXCESSIVE DANDRUFF CAUSING BALD ANKLES.

Other runners-up were:

Carla Timm: ZORBA'S YELLOW XYLOPHONE WAS VERY UNUSUAL. "TRULY SPECTACULAR, RARE QUALITY," PROPOUNDED ONE NEOPHYTE MUSICIAN. LAVISHLY KIMONOED JAPANESE INDUSTRIALISTS HAUNTED GREECE FOR EXACT DUPLICATES. CULTURE BREEDS AVARICE!

Elizabeth Cook: "ZERO!" YELPED XERXES. "WHICH VENERABLE USHER TOOK SUNDAY'S REVENUES?" "QUENTIN PILFERED OUR NICKELS," MALACHI LAUGHED KNOWINGLY. "JOKE IS—HE GARNERED FIVE EXTRA DOLLARS COUNTING BINGO ASSETS."

Eileen Rieback: ZEKE'S YELLOWED XMAS WREATH, VEILED UNDER TINSEL, SUBTLY REMINDS QUIXOTIC PEOPLE OF NOSTALGIC MEMORIES. LIKEWISE, KIM'S JOYFULLY ILLUMINATED HOLIDAY GREENERY FOREVER EVOKE DELIGHTFUL CHRISTMASTIDE'S BYGONE AGE.

Marion McCullough: ZOE YAWNED. XENIA WAS VERY UNEXCITING. THE SILENT ROOMS QUIETLY PLAGUED ONE'S NERVES. "MY LORD!" KEN JOKED. "I'D HAIL GHOST'S FOOTSTEPS—EVEN DRAGGING CHAINS BEATS APATHY!"

Trudi L. Benedict: ZESTFULLY YODELING, XANTHIPPE'S WARBLING VIBRATO UNEXPECTEDLY TREMBLED. SHE RECOILED; QUENTIN'S PIERCING OGLE, NEVER MORE LECHEROUS, KNIFED JEERINGLY INWARD. HER GLEAMING, FIERY EYES DEFIANTLY CONCEALED BITTER ANXIETY.

Tom Enrico: ZEALOUS, YELLING XENOPHOBES WERE VERY UPSET THIS SATURDAY REGARDING QUICK PASSAGE OF NEW MEASURES LETTING KOREAN JOCKEYS INTO HIALEAH. GOVERNMENT'S FIRM ENFORCEMENT DECLARED CRUCIAL BY ALIENS.

Ruth Boss: ZELDA YOUNG'S XYLOPHONE WAS VERY UNUSUAL. TODAY SHE RATHER QUIETLY PLAYED ONE NOTE. MINUTES LATER, KEYS JUMPED INDEPENDENTLY. HER GHOSTLY FRIEND, EACH DAY, COMPOSED BRILLIANT ARRANGEMENTS.

Tovah Hollander: ZANE YANCEY (X-BAR WRANGLER) VAMOOSSED UNDER TEXAS SUN, RIDING QUICKLY PAST ORNERY NED MARTIN'S LAND. KIND-HEARTED JUANITA INTERRUPTED HIS GETAWAY FOR EIGHTEEN DAYS, CREATING BORDER ANIMOSITIES.

Dorothy Tonnacliff: ZANY YAK (XENOPHON) WANTS VIRGIN UNICORNS TO SUBLT ROOMS. QUIET PARK OUTSIDE, NEAR MOAT, LOVELY KITCHEN JUST INSIDE HALL; GREAT FOR ENTERTAINING DAMSELS. COME BROWSE AROUND.—L.B.

## For Starters

Congratulations to Philip M. Cohen, a *Four-Star* reader from Aliquippa, PA, and author of this issue's "Offerings to the Sphinx." Philip captured the \$400 first prize at the 4th annual American Crossword Puzzle Tournament in Stamford, CT, March 6-8—missing only two letters in seven puzzles and using less than half the allotted solving time. We also salute second-place winner Joel Darrow of White Plains, NY, and John Chervokas of Briarcliff Manor, NY, who finished third. A full report of the weekend contest and games will appear next issue.

Some of you may have been wondering about Question #11 in March's "Can You Answer This?", in which we asked what "one very important feature" was omitted from Henry Ford's first automobile in 1896. The answer we gave, "cottage cheese," raised quite a few eyebrows—and laughs. The actual answer was "reverse gear." We may surprise you with the real "cottage cheese" question another month.

Many of you who missed early issues of the *Four-Star* have asked how you can obtain copies. You can complete your set by writing "Back Issues," *The Four-Star Puzzler*, 515 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022, enclosing \$1.50 (postpaid) for each issue you need. Be sure to specify date(s) or issue number(s).

—W.S.

# THE 4★ PUZZLER

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How to Write to Us:

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Subscriptions: In U.S. and possessions \$9.97 for one year, \$17.97 for two. Canadian and foreign subscriptions \$11.97. Send to *The Four-Star Puzzler*, P.O. Box 10743, Des Moines, IA 50340.

Back Issues: Send \$1.50 per copy (which includes postage and handling) to *The Four-Star Puzzler*, Back Issues, 515 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022. Please specify issue number or month and year.

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## Rebus Puzzles

### A Four-Star Contest

**Grand Prize:** "Electronic Jackpot Gin Rummy and Black Jack" game by Entex

**10 Runner-Up Prizes:** 18-inch flexible "Silly Pencils"

**Competition Puzzles in This Issue:** Nos. 2, 3, 4, 30, 31, 32, 35, 36, 37, 40, 41.

#### How to Solve Rebus Puzzles

The caption above each cartoon gives the category of the answer and the number of letters in it. All the parts of the answer are found *phonetically* in the cartoon in one or more of the following ways:

1. Words or hyphenated syllables actually spoken by the cartoon characters or appearing in the cartoon;
2. Synonyms of words spoken by the characters or appearing in the cartoon;
3. Names of prominent objects in the picture;
4. Isolated letters in the picture;
5. Words implied by the action or subject of the scene.

For example, the answer to the first cartoon (Novel: 7,4) is *Tobacco Road*. It is sounded out by the successive words TOW, the action; BACK, a spoken word; and CORRODE, a synonym of "to rust" (TOW-BACK-CORRODE).

#### How to Enter

On a postcard or back of an envelope (no letters, please), send us answers to as many rebuses as you can solve. Please list the parts of each answer (as above), and send to "Rebus Puzzles," *The Four-Star Puzzler*, 515 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022. Entries must be received by May 15, 1981.

#### Winning

The winner will be the reader who correctly solves the most cartoons. Those who submit the ten next best entries will be runners-up. In case of ties, winners will be chosen by random drawing. Answers will appear next month. Winners' names will appear in the August issue.

#### February Winners

The top prize (\$50 worth of records) goes to Kathy Heinke and Joel Wright, of Fort Atkinson, WI. Runners-up, who will each receive a year's subscription to *The Four-Star Puzzler*, are: A. Backiel, Wallington, NJ; Joe and Dianne Damico, Columbus, OH; Don Delmar, Long Beach, CA; Bill Gorgo, Chicago, IL; Tovah E. Hollander, Los Angeles, CA; Edward W. Johnston, South Lake Tahoe, CA; Joan Kirkham, North Battleford, Sask.; Lysle V. Lewis, Sarasota, FL; Larry L. Thomas, Mount Pleasant, MI; and Scott Ugoretz, La Jolla, CA. Total entries: 496. Total correct entries: 285.

#### Ex.: Novel: 7,4



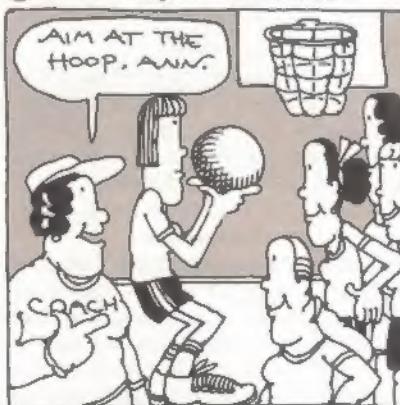
#### 2 Singer/Actor: 4,7



#### 3 TV Show: 4,6



#### 4 Broadway Character: 6,4



## 5 Can You Answer This?

Answers, page 10

1. By now, most TV fans know who shot J.R. Ewing. But do you know what the initials J.R. stand for?

2. Speaking of names, the first three were Bob, David, and Frederic. The first three what?

3. Now that spring is upon us, can you tell how many inches of snowfall will equal the water capacity of one inch of rainfall?

4. "Lafayette, we are here!" What was Lafayette's response?

5. Why was it necessary for Admiral Byrd's Antarctic expedition to take along a refrigerator?

6. In 1491, James IV of Scotland de-meaned it as "silly" and signed a law prohibiting it. Then one day he tried it, and soon the law was repealed. What is it?

7. Though mercury is classified as a liquid, it lacks one property common to most liquids. What property?

8. On December 6, 1926, it snowed in France. So what?

9. At an annual fiesta in Oaxaca, Mexico, local artists carve fantastic human and animal figures out of something quite unusual. What?

10. Another art question: Among Michelangelo's many masterpieces, why is his *Pieta* unique?

11. We've all heard the phrase "to buy a pig in a poke." What's a poke?

12. Newcomers to bullfights are led to believe that bulls can, but among mammals, only humans and monkeys can. Can what?

13. One now-classic novel was written by a neighbor of Nathaniel Hawthorne, and was dedicated to him. Name this novel.

14. Trivia lovers know that Theodore Roosevelt was the first American President to ride in a car. But who was the first President to *drive* a car?

15. Why did Orville, and not Wilbur Wright make that first flight at Kitty Hawk?

16. The first modern one appeared on a corner on Euclid Ave. in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1914. What was it?

17. Who is or was Nikolai Tikhonov?

18. An unsuspecting hiker may suddenly find himself doused with a substance called ethanethiol. How might this happen?

19. Who held his position longer—Pres. William Henry Harrison or Pope John Paul I?

20. What famous musical work was composed to celebrate the opening of the Suez Canal in 1871?

## 6 Element No. 18

HENRY HOOK

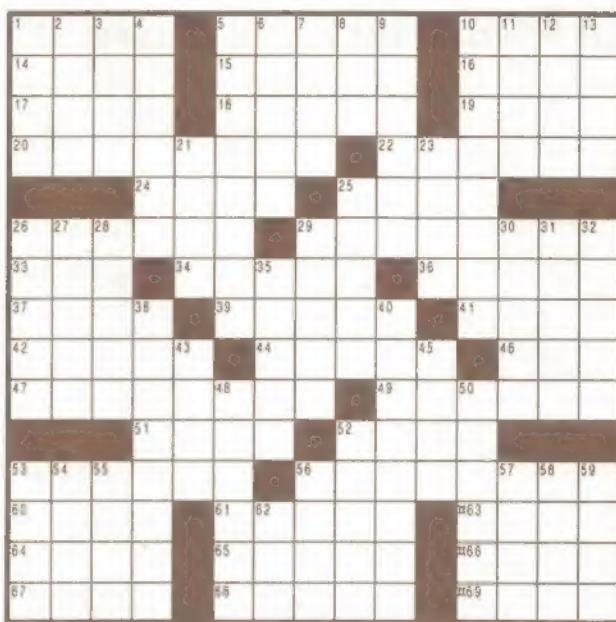
**ACROSS**

1 Form of baby talk  
 5 Second-hand tire  
 10 Stimulating, as the wind  
 14 Essence of roses  
 15 More pointed  
 16 Bombastic speaker  
 17 *West Side Story* heroine  
 18 Furrier's wares  
 19 Choir's accompaniment  
 20 Bronx cheers  
 22 Last in line  
 24 "\_\_\_ Theme," from *Doctor Zhivago*  
 25 Take the wheel  
 26 Neptune's prop  
 29 Wheeler-dealer out West  
 33 Assessor  
 34 Worn, as soil  
 36 The Dog Star  
 37 Jeweled headband  
 39 "\_\_\_, year out"  
 41 Showed up  
 42 Brezhnev's

**DOWN**

44 Build another room  
 46 \_\_\_ *La Douce*  
 47 Radium discoverer  
 49 Noted Austrian geneticist  
 51 Roadside eatery  
 52 *Little House on the Prairie* girl  
 53 Multiplied by itself  
 56 Kin to deans' lists  
 60 Sadistic  
 61 Allusion  
 63 Fretting soul  
 64 Book lover  
 65 Actress Dahl  
 66 Provide  
 67 Exes' successors  
 68 "Elementary, \_\_\_ Watson"  
 69 Cpl. Klinger's "uniform"?

1 Actress Hedy  
 2 Moreno and Hayworth  
 3 Disrobe  
 4 The Good Samaritan or the Prodigal Son  
 5 Of breathing  
 6 Basics of education  
 7 Noblemen  
 8 Totally engrossed  
 9 Gobi and Mojave  
 10 Pertaining to air pressure  
 11 One of the Beatles...  
 12 ...and his namesakes  
 13 a/k/a Superman  
 21 Breadwinner  
 23 Peep shows  
 25 Vile  
 26 Ryan's daughter  
 27 "\_\_\_ far, far better..."; Dickens  
 28 Business letter salutation



29 Double-\_\_\_ (two ballgames)  
 30 Reason for a wartime blackout  
 31 Buddy Rich or Gene Krupa  
 32 Paste an envelope back together  
 35 More like Poe's midnight  
 38 AKC terriers  
 40 *All in the Family* producer  
 43 More pornographic  
 45 Prefix meaning "nerve"  
 50 Condensed  
 52 Whom a borrower borrows from  
 53 Threaded nail  
 54 Former heavyweight contender Jerry  
 55 \_\_\_ la Paix  
 56 Pay attention  
 57 Greene, of *Bonanza* fame  
 58 Tops  
 59 Prophets  
 62 Emulate Earhart

## 7 Cryptic Crossword

GARY DISCH

Each cryptic clue contains two indications of its answer—a direct or indirect definition, and some sort of wordplay on it (anagram, pun, or reversal, etc.) You'll know when you have an answer because every word in the clue will have a role in leading you to it. For new solvers: Explanations will appear with answers next month.

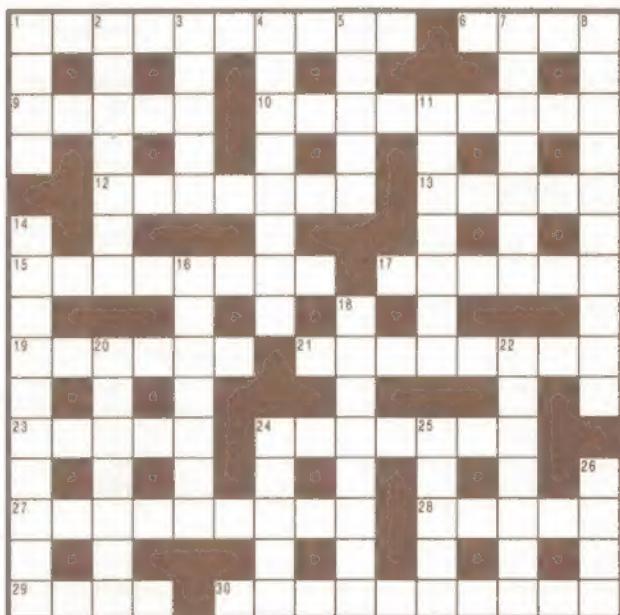
**ACROSS**

1 Rest of the guys who fix flats got in—about time! (10)  
 6 Narration of great achievement from a grandiose picture (4)  
 9 Islamic ruler captures 50% of western state? (5)  
 10 Area residents bring shoe repairs (9)  
 12 I see men might be adversaries (7)  
 13 Women's new title holds relief for spinsters (5)  
 15 Workers causing zealous followers to lose leader (8)  
 17 Top of bottle broken—reset caps (6)  
 19 Strain some of the beef for teriyaki (6)  
 21 Cured disease, as one diagnosis shows (8)  
 23 Members return for the whip (5)  
 24 Monk makes a fuss about beginning of ritual (7)

27 Pen covering device illegally used at exam time (4, 5)  
 28 The French hug excitedly and show amusement (5)  
 29 Two-thirds of unmarried people do it with music (4)  
 30 Agreement about a dirty mess brings out an evaluation (10)

**DOWN**

1 Bob Stone (4)  
 2 Everyone in *The Trial* comes out at the top (7)  
 3 Firearm delivered by reform lifer (5)  
 4 People is not bad, according to notices (8)  
 5 Tacks and turns sail, headed north (5)  
 7 Short biographical sketch for the record (7)  
 8 Ignores the players' private comment, ... (5, 5)  
 11 ... incompetent actor hires out to small communities (7)



14 Duffel bags strewn about Sharks' cave (10)  
 16 Converted priests form bands (7)  
 18 One sent away for a kind of shirt; got tied up at the outset (8)  
 20 Outside of backward dominion... (7)  
 22 ... rear and run true to form in a different way (7)  
 24 Buffet, we hear, with beverages (5)  
 25 Passages shall—must—be rewritten (5)  
 26 Heartless whiskey bandit leaves the smallest amount (4)

# 8 Prestidigitation

## Diagramless Crossword

WILL SHORTZ

This puzzle is 15 squares wide by 15 squares deep.

### ACROSS

- Flower for Mrs. Kennedy?
- Opinion's cost?
- Father
- Hockey VIPs
- Unknown author
- Ring around the sun
- Something seen
- Have \_\_\_ on (lay claim to)
- Hostess Perle
- Bee's follower
- "\_\_\_ the land of the free . . ."
- Went blonde
- Record players, for short
- Confess, with "up"
- Very stylish
- Cinderella's curfew
- Time for "accidents"
- Mid-April form
- Name in fashion
- Title for 100: Abbr.
- Camp bed
- Frayed
- Question

42 Old-style poem

43 Some carpets or haircuts

45 Revealing skirt

48 Leo's ladylove

50 Affixed, as a ribbon

52 "Sometimes you feel like \_\_\_ . . ."

53 Kind of shadow

54 Adam's third

55 Leopardlike cat

56 Plant for stews

### DOWN

- What the absent-minded may do
- Getting \_\_\_ years
- Something to pick up or let off
- Double curve
- Sci-fi setting
- Fossil dating method
- \_\_\_ 10 Conference
- Amusing story
- XXIII, 1958-63
- Bets to play
- 6 for 18, 24, and 42: Abbr.
- Cake froster
- Seuss' *The \_\_\_ Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins*

14 Hitchcock thriller

15 Summer on the Riviera

16 Semidiameters

19 Lou Grant's line

22 A word with Victor

25 Tincture

26 Avoided abbrs.

28 Fresh-water polyps named for a nine-headed serpent

30 Catchphrase of yore

32 Use a divining rod

33 \_\_\_ of Good Feeling

37 Soft drinks

39 Exclamations

41 \_\_\_ rat (be suspicious)

44 Kind of car or market

46 Night: Prefix

47 Sign a contract

49 Unknown ordinal number

51 Cake froster

53 Seuss' *The \_\_\_ Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins*

# 9 Miles to Go

## Logic Puzzle

PAUL R. McCLENON

In the short time that the Beachams, the Gainors, the Harknesses, and the Kenyons have lived in the same town, they've all become very good friends. Here are some facts about the men (Adam, Nick, Pluto, and Ted) and their wives (Charlotte, Dorothy, Fern, and Jan). With this information, tell who's married to whom, and how far Nick's house is from the Gainors'. Answer, page 10

### Clues

- The Harknesses have been married longer than Nick has.
- Adam lives exactly five miles from the Kenyons.
- Pluto lives directly north of Nick.
- A line from Fern's house to the Beachams' would go through the Gainors' house.
- Jan lives exactly three miles from Adam.
- Pluto has not been married as long as Jan has.
- Adam is taller than Mr. Gainor.
- Ted lives the same distance from Jan as Dorothy lives from the Kenyons.
- The Beachams live directly east of Adam.



# Cryptography

SALLY PORTER

Each of these messages has been put into a simple substitution letter code. The substitutions are constant throughout each cipher, but change from one message to the next.

### 10 Triple Threat

YROBHTHJ BR DRDMFTH  
IMDLHIBWBWRO, IMHDHWILI QR  
ORB TFATJI YRSL WO BCHLLI—  
EMTQHMDFLBI, ZRH WOIBTOYL.

### 11 Well-Groomed

LPVGWKD LJYJURMB LKHV  
DPMH CJRIYFRX WFX LXRUJ.  
WFNH DPUH JNMGPYIJV IRWB  
WFX VJNH VJJ-BGXFKIG  
YJIDRIJJ.

### 12 ...They'll Take a Yard

VGMRL KPVDGUM HUGSR  
DSNPW PI KSUXGI, KISH  
MFWWFBGIC VSUMIZV,  
RPDBUSYZ, SIX CFUIZV VBSICM.

### 13 Field Trip

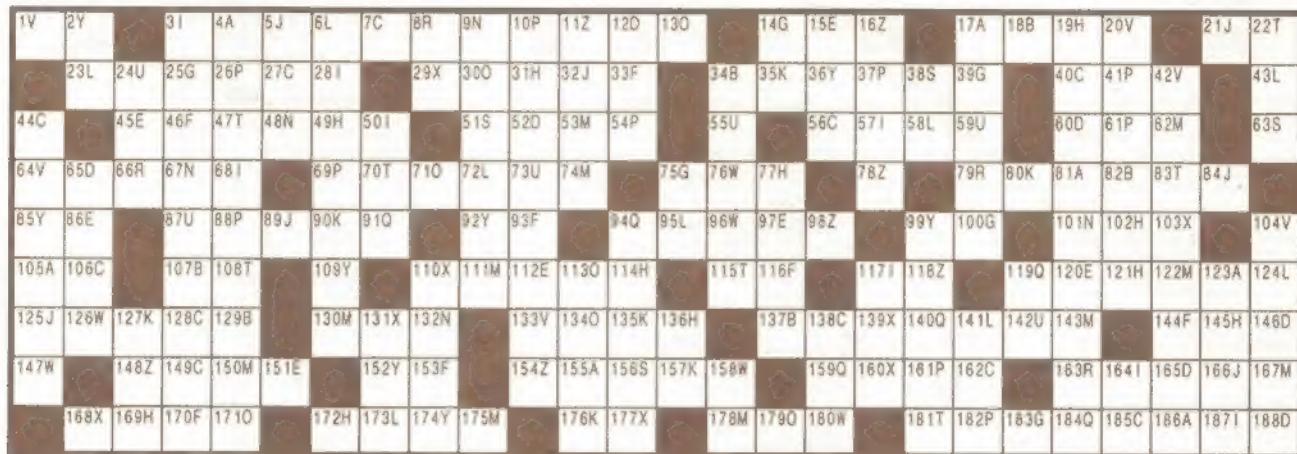
HMVVSK DMPYOS XSDDSL  
HFVVMK UKMB KSUSKSS ICSJ  
LMJJAXKMMN SKFGZSL LFKOJD  
IOYL BPZVC. GSJPYZA: UKSS  
NOVN.

### 14 Light Work

EQUINOX SQWIKI VOBMWBM  
LQPK EVOBHYXWYQ LPQK  
QOWBGPCI PB EYWXXWBM CVYB  
INQJED GU GQWMVN IJBIVWBY.

## **15 Acrostic Puzzle**

THOMAS MIDDLETON



Answer the clues for words to be entered on the numbered dashes. Then transfer the letters on the dashes to the correspondingly numbered squares in the puzzle grid to spell a quotation reading from left to right. Black squares separate words in the quotation. Work back and forth between grid and word list to complete the puzzle. When you are done, the initial letters of the words in the word list will spell the name of the author and the source of the quotation.

Clues	Word List	N. Nutty or wacky
A. In bad shape (hyph.)	4 81 105 123 155 186 17	O. Sets in motion again 13 30 71 179 113 134 171
B. Signify	18 34 82 107 120 137	P. Not appealing to the senses 88 26 37 54 161 182 10 41 61 89
C. Dolt	27 40 44 56 106 128 138 149 162 185 7	Q. Long, deep wounds 119 140 91 159 184 94
D. One of Natty Bumppo's nicknames	52 60 65 146 165 188 12	R. Con job, swindle 163 79 86 8
E. Business concerns, romantic relationships	16 45 86 97 112 120 151	S. Albacore, for instance 51 156 38 63
F. E. W. Hornung's gentleman thief	33 46 93 116 144 153 170	T. Snake mackerel of deep marine waters 22 70 83 108 115 47 181
G. "Ike"	183 14 25 39 75 100	U. Irritate, cause resentment 24 55 73 59 87 142
H. Great deed	121 19 102 145 169 31 49 77 114 136 172	V. Token, sign 20 42 133 64 104 1
I. Acts furiously or violently	50 57 117 164 187 3 28 66	W. Ponder, codify, summary 158 78 96 147 180 126
J. Sea cow	89 125 188 5 21 32 84	X. Freed from internal stress by heating and gradually cooling 131 29 177 103 160 168 139 110
		Y. Seaport on Tokyo Bay 2 85 36 92 152 99 174 109
		Z. Dusky 16 154 78 98 148 11 118



# The Sphinx Page



The puzzles on this page are like those written years ago, before crosswords became popular, when the Sphinx was called "The Patron Saint of Puzzledom."

Each puzzle in verse contains two or more missing words to be guessed—such as transposals (e.g., MARCH/CHARM), charades (TAR + GET = TARGET), letter changes (AVENGE/AVENUE), or even spoonerisms (BIRD WATCHER/WORD BOTCHER). These keywords are represented by x's and y's (and z's in one case)—one for each letter in an omitted word. When the keywords have been correctly guessed, each verse will read with proper rhyme and meter, and will express an interesting thought, situation, or story.

An anagram is an apposite rearrangement of the letters of a word, name, or familiar phrase. For example, O, I HANG FINE DRESS is an anagram of FASHION DESIGNER. Numbers in parentheses indicate lengths of answers.

## 16 Transposal

My picture postcard showed Paree—  
The Eiffel XXXXX's majesty.  
And on that card I XXXXX, "My dear  
(Cherie in French), wish you were here!"

Mel Rosen, Tampa, FL

## 17 Charade

She jumped upon the kitchen chair;  
yyy skirt she lifted high.  
And then she cried—or xxxyyy screamed;  
A xxx had scampered by.

Walter Penny, Greenbelt, MD

## 18 Letter Change

Dear neighbor, I've said to you time after time,  
I don't like your dog in my yard.

## 30 Author: 1, 1, 8



You vowed that you'd chain him, and yet he  
runs loose—  
Is keeping your word all that hard?  
Please do something, won't you, to keep him  
confined.

Your XXXXXXXX won't be enough.  
That dog better keep off my XXXXXXXX, hear?  
I'm fed up to here with your guff!

Miriam Raphael, Port Chester, NY

## 19 Transposal

He's a XXXXXX each weekend on the links,  
Goes 18 holes, with energy still peak,  
But on XXXXXX at the desk his vigor sinks—  
Can't even lift a pencil, he's so weak!

Mary J. Hazard, Rochester, NY

## 20 Transposal

We all XXXXX that cryptic fare  
Will baffle, stupefy, amaze.  
Thus, XXXXX puzzlers everywhere  
Hail Four-Star's gifts with highest praise.

Carroll Mayers, Roswell, NM

## 21 Transposal

The sparkling waves, the XXXXXX sands:  
They're all so bright, they hurt my eyes.  
Still, they raised my spirits so,  
I longed to shout out to the skies.  
I spread my arms and whirled around  
Until my mate—unfeeling creep—  
Said, "You're too old and fat for that!"  
And so his XXXXXXX made me weep.

Miriam Raphael, Port Chester, NY

## 22 Word Interlock

Here's a yyy for you, Mother: If your little  
dear  
Grows zzzz acquiescent as xxxx time draws  
near,  
Let him take some toy xxxyzzzxyz into the  
tub  
And go rat-a-tat-tat as you rub-a-dub-dub.

Philip M. Cohen, Aliquippa, PA

## 31 Play and Movie: 3, 5



## 23 Homophone

If you are cold and hungry  
This dank and XXXXXX day,  
Please try my homemade XXXXX—  
It's scalding, I must say!

Toni Harna, Manistee, MI

## 24 Beheadment

"Though every XXXX is aching,  
With pride the pain I bear.  
I made the yxxxx," said Hillary,  
"Just because it's there."

Jeanne E. Roman, Jamesville, NY

## 25 Spoonergram

Constance met a Scotsman.  
She wondered what he wore  
Beneath his XXXXX XXXX; she tried  
To see, but he got sore.

In vain she speculated  
On the view above his knees,  
So XXXXX XXXXX her hopes upon  
A strong and playful breeze.

Jeanne E. Roman, Jamesville, NY

## Anagrams

### 26 OH, GOT REPTILES (13)

### 27 ALERT, BALANCED (1 6 6)

### 28 WAIT.. SEEMS THAT IS APRIL (3 4 4 1 3 5)

### 29 I.E., IS OFTEN ABOUT REVEALING FRAUD (7 6 2 13)

David Shulman, New York, NY

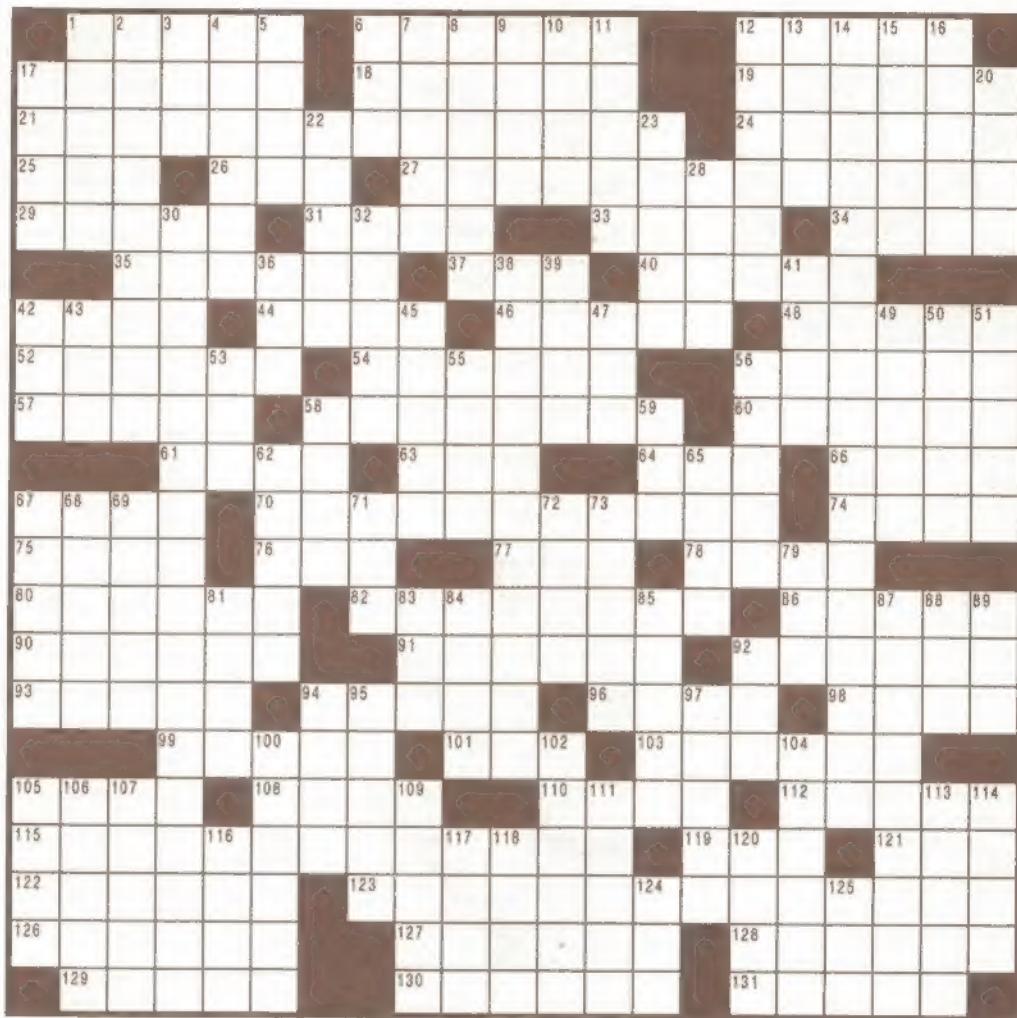
Do you feel the Muse? Send us an original puzzle of any type you have seen on this page, and we'll thank you with \$20 if it is used. Anagrams will be judged for appositeness, and poetic puzzles for cleverness of keywords and verse. Write "The Sphinx," *The Four-Star Puzzler*, 515 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022. Enclose a stamped return envelope if you wish a reply.

## 32 1820 Poem: 2, 1, 7



## 33 Poetic Etc. License

THREBA JOHNSON

**ACROSS**

1 Feather: Prefix  
6 "Top 40" lists  
12 Carries on something awful  
17 Prepare leftovers  
18 Right to hold property  
19 In \_\_\_\_ study (pensive)  
21 In debt, ornithologically?  
24 Soccer player  
25 Slangy affirmative  
26 Wire: Abbr.  
27 Uprising on a sugar plantation?  
29 Wait on tables  
31 Scotch broth  
33 Give a darn  
34 Hearts' charts: Abbr.  
35 Lots  
37 Volt-face from ENE  
40 Late-show actor Richard  
42 Flout  
44 Note containers: Abbr.  
46 Penny-a-liners  
48 Montreal nine  
52 Fly  
54 Cry of woe  
56 French acre  
57 Ready's followers  
58 Seizers of power  
60 Story of a garage mechanic?  
61 Dawnlike  
63 \_\_\_\_ Paulo  
64 WWII agcy.  
66 Hint  
67 Francisco's fast food  
70 Saint-Exupery's economy fare?  
74 Asian holidays  
75 "Time \_\_\_\_ the essence"  
76 "Ain't \_\_\_\_ shame?"  
77 Amusement  
78 \_\_\_\_ vu (seeming recollection)  
80 Urban region

82 Drives back  
86 Confused  
90 Fairy tale character  
91 Celtic  
92 Religious leaders  
93 Krupp site  
94 Frown  
96 \_\_\_\_ me tangere  
98 Russian woman's name  
99 \_\_\_\_ retreat  
101 45° from 37-Across  
103 Ornamental rib, in architecture  
105 Entr'\_\_\_\_  
108 Republic in West Africa  
110 De France and du Diable  
112 Two hearts beating \_\_\_\_  
115 Timorous TV twosome  
119 Ibex  
121 Egg beverage

122 A.M. in Germany  
123 Story of a lazy leader?  
126 Made passageways  
127 Chant  
128 Vestments  
129 Fumes  
130 Actor Art  
131 John Brown's Body poet

**DOWN**

1 Phoebe  
2 What Asch and Gibran made?  
3 Moslem Easter  
4 Squealed  
5 Siouxan  
6 Pennies: Abbr.  
7 Hundred: Prefix  
8 Carelessly  
9 Regulation  
10 Farm machine, for short  
11 Pinnacle of ice  
12 Junk collectors of a sort  
13 "\_\_\_\_ ben Adhem"

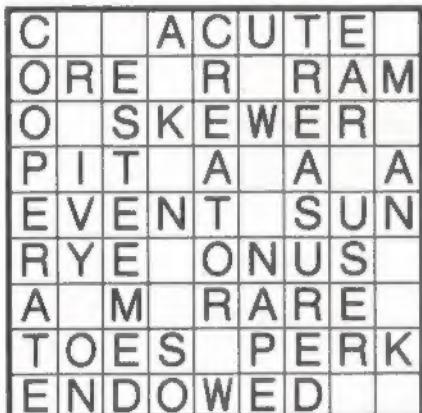
14 Dickens' optimistic energy story?  
15 Caused by the wind  
16 Playground need  
17 Rob and others  
20 Family in French military history  
22 Veep Barkley  
23 Facility  
28 Cupid  
30 Shaggy dog story?  
32 Replies to an invitation  
36 One of the Generals  
38 Story of an oil tanker?  
39 Decline  
41 Region: Abbr.  
42 Courtroom VIPs  
43 First lady  
45 Type of fund  
47 Core: Abbr.  
49 Norman Vincent

50 Beginning  
51 Simmers  
53 Also  
55 "I smell \_\_\_\_"  
56 Playing marble  
58 One  
59 Become drenched  
62 Cation's opposite  
65 Profs, often  
67 French zoo attraction  
68 Residue  
69 Dorm dwellers  
71 Needlefish  
72 Soothe  
73 Live \_\_\_\_ out of wedlock  
79 Firefly collector's need  
81 Men's shoe size  
83 Self  
84 Sharklike story of a cat?  
85 French school  
87 Story of a cold fish?  
88 Unit of energy  
89 \_\_\_\_ rule  
92 Dessert  
94 Town, in South Africa  
95 Marble: Prefix  
97 Hungarian composer  
100 Corrects  
102 28th President  
104 Type of inflorescence  
105 Hindu soul  
106 Singing group  
107 Succinct  
109 Containing an antiseptic  
111 Sierra \_\_\_\_  
113 Trio, squared  
114 Urges  
116 Part of a month  
117 Arm bone  
118 Composer Tchaikovsky  
120 Pequod's captain  
124 Whimsical  
125 Relative



**33** The Guggenheim word is MATCH. The categories are: Games (Monopoly, authors, tag, charades, hearts), TV Shows (*M\*A\*S\*H*, *Alice*, *Taxi*, *CHiPs*, *Hee Haw*), Words Ending in X (minx, anticlimax, thorax, coax, hex), U.S. Cities (Mobile, Anchorage, Troy, Charleston, Hannibal), and Articles of Clothing (mackintosh, ascot, trunks, cape, hood).

Clue answers: 1. MO-BILE 2. ASCOT (anag.) 3. TAG (hidden) 4. C-HIPS 5. HANNI-BAL (rev.) 6. AU-THORS (short anag.) 7. TRUNKS (rev. acrostic) 8. MASH (anag.) 9. COAX ("Cokes") 10. HOOD (2 mngs.) 11. CHAR(EST)ON (lets anag.) 12. HE-EH-AW (2nd he rev.) 13. MAC (KIN)TOSH (stomach anag.) 14. THOR-AX 15. CHARADES (anag.) 16. MINX ("minks") 17. TA-XI (st rev.) 18. A-NCHOR-RAGE (no charge anag.) 19. HEA(R)TS (haste anag.) 20. ANTICLIMAX (anag.) 21. CAPE (hidden) 22. MON-OPOL-Y (pool anag.) 23. TROY (O and R rev.) 24. (t)HE-X 25. ALI-C.E.

**34**

**35** "I Saw Her Standing There" (double meaning)

**36** Scandinavia (SCANNED-IN-NAVY-A)



## 34 RightAngles

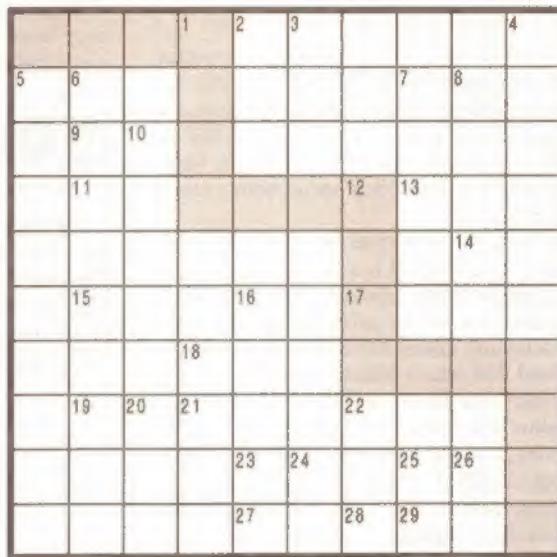
### Variety Cryptic Puzzle

E.R. GALLI

The twist of RightAngles is that each answer in the grid makes one 90° turn somewhere along its length. The letter following the clue number indicates the direction (north, south, east, or west) in which the answer starts its path; you must determine the point at which the word makes its turn, and in which direction. Of help is the fact that each letter in the completed grid appears in exactly two answers—no more, no less. This includes the unclued, but appropriate, four-word answer phrase that travels the shaded path from upper left to lower right.

#### CLUES

- 1E Coats; slips; neckwear (5)
- 2S Working place whose past is deceitful (9)
- 3E Hold fast about Latin in church (6)
- 4S Refuse to put Buick's front end in repair shop (7)
- 5S Delay ceremony involving divination (7)
- 6S To solicit, we turned crooked (5)
- 7W Quiet, awfully slow rabbits . . . they dig up the ground (10)
- 7S A princess lost sleep over this letter, by the sound of it (3)
- 8S Gossips: spiteful women, but there's a hitch in it (9)
- 9E Kettle was smashed flatter (5-4)
- 10N White servants and pup (5)
- 11S Foreign currency—knock out a large number (6)
- 12N Ring in \$1000 business (7)
- 13E Bail out, assuming right balance in the sky (5)
- 14E Awkward stag makes it in a game (4)
- 15W Remove the stone—it's mine (3)
- 16W Inebriated man is



- supple (5)
- 17S Mary O'Keefe's heart is given in marriage (4)
- 18N Dispatch crafts with ends removed (4)
- 19W Large and light (4)
- 20W There's nothing left if porter leaves African plant (4)
- 21S In the same manner and time Kennedy gets plastered (6)
- 21E Superior air bombs in explosion with sulfur cap (8)
- 22W Vitamin in a dog's treat? (4)
- 23W Reagan's after firm article: crown (6)
- 24E Red jewel, representation of clan Bruce (9)
- 25W Breed indigenous to Saracens (4)
- 26N Fascinating plastic resin (5)
- 27W Draw one true leaflet (7)
- 28E Fifty-one thousand prized shellfish (6)
- 29W Look into vile accounts involving part of the intestines (5)

**35** Newscaster: 3, 6**36** Literary Character: 6**37** Orchestra Conductor: 6, 7



## 38 All Wet, Hardcase?

Three-Minute Detective

ROBERT L. LIDDIL

Left to his own devices, Inspector Hardcase spent his leisure in quiet, remote places—Death Valley, the Ross Ice Shelf, the reading room of the public library. Perhaps that's why he was vacationing at a Dead Sea hostel with a small tour group.

Upon their arrival in the late afternoon, their Israeli host sat them down to a typical "local" dinner—strictly kosher. While they ate he entertained them with interesting anecdotes and facts about the Dead Sea which Hardcase automatically "filed" for future reference: "1,292 feet below sea level... 47 miles long and 10 miles wide... average depth 1,080 feet... saltiest water in the world, six times saltier than the oceans... entire shoreline capable of being 'mined' for minerals... anyone diving into its water likely to break whatever bones struck first..."

That night, shortly before bedtime, the wife of one of their party rushed breathlessly into the common room, her swimsuit streaming. "Help!" she screamed. "Orville's out there with a cramp and I'm afraid he's drowning!"

The men dashed to the shore, shedding their outer clothing as they ran. Hardcase swam powerfully to where he saw the body floating motionless about a hundred yards from land. Artificial respiration proved useless; Orville Wagstaff had drowned.

The distraught widow lashed out ver-

bally at everything. "It must have been this lousy climate... or that horrible food... or jet lag. I told him not to go out so far, but he didn't listen. When he was about a hundred yards out he yelled that he was having a cramp. That's when I ran back here for help."

Hardcase placed his hand gently but firmly on her shoulder and interrupted. "And this is when I have to warn you that I'm detaining you until the local police arrive to arrest you for murder."

What told Hardcase that the woman's story was false and that she'd actually murdered her husband? **Answer, page 10**



## At Wits' End

### 32 Divide and Conquer

Three thieves miraculously discovered the great treasure chest of King Solomon. After cracking it open, revealing a large, unknown number of gold coins, they began dividing the coins into three equal piles. Suddenly, one thief stirred things up by asking, "What happens if the number of coins doesn't divide by three?"

How can they insure that each rogue has an equal chance of getting an extra coin? —*Gary Peterson, Chicago, IL*

### 33 Not Very Bright!

Agnes bought a dozen electric light bulbs. To make sure that there were no duds among them she tested all of them and found them perfect. She then wrapped them up prettily and sent them to her friend Jean.

Jean, after examining her gift, called the store and demanded a refund. The storekeeper laughed at her. Why? —*John Paul Adams, We Dare You to Solve This! No. 3*

### 34 Step Lively

If a boy takes three steps to a man's two steps and they both start at the same time on the left foot, how many steps will the man have taken before the two step out together on the right foot? —*P. M. H. Kendall and G. M. Thomas, Mathematical Puzzles for the Connoisseur*

### 35 Outing On the Outs?

Not all fifty members were present at last night's club meeting. There was a disagreement about plans for the club outing. The largest group—exactly 40% of those present—opposed planning for any outing until next month. The rest, who wanted to plan now, were in two factions: those who wanted an ocean beach trip being half as many again as those who wanted a mountain picnic. If there were no neutrals or undecideds, how many came to the meeting? —*Paul R. McClenon, Washington, DC*

*Do you have an original, unpublished brainteaser? Send it to "At Wit's End," The Four-Star Puzzler, 515 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022. We'll pay \$20 for each one used.*

### 40 Former World Leaders: 5, 8



### 41 Novel: 1, 4, 3, 5

